

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Mon 6/2/2014 8:51:59 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 6/2/14

OPA Daily Digest for 6/2/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Raytown (Mo.) Eagle – Paul Davidson – 6/2/14: Questions about household hazardous waste. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Des Moines Register - Branstad spokesman: Carbon rule hurts Iowa consumers, jobs - 6/2/14 - What does the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants mean for Iowa? Gov. Terry Branstad is concerned EPA's "latest unilateral, ideological action" will "hurt Iowa consumers and cost Iowans jobs," said Jimmy Centers, a Branstad spokesman.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2014/06/02/environmentalists-businesses-disagree-epa-standard-job-creation/9866209/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

National Journal - Sierra Club: Missouri Community Leaders Applaud Historic Plan to Curb Carbon Pollution, Take Action on Climate - 6/2/14 - "Today's announcement of the carbon pollution rules marks a moment of tremendous opportunity for the state of Missouri," said John Hickey, Director of the Sierra Club Missouri chapter. "While Missouri's aging power plants damage our health and raise our rates, making smart investments in clean energy like wind, solar and efficiency will help Missouri cut dangerous pollution and modernize our energy fleet. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/library/162098>

Washington Times - Carbon rules likely mean higher Iowa power bills - 6/2/14 - Iowa utility officials say the Obama administration's ambitious plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants is likely to increase costs. Regi Goodale with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives says it's just a question of how much electric bills will increase because of the new regulations.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/2/carbon-rules-likely-mean-higher-iowa-power-bills/>

EarthJustice - Kansas Sticks to Dangerous Path to Build Expensive Coal Plant - 6/1/14 - KDHE gives Sunflower the green light to build new coal plant at Holcomb, ignoring pollution and rising costs.

<http://earthjustice.org/news/press/2014/kansas-sticks-to-dangerous-path-to-build-expensive-coal-plant>

Kansas City Star - Kansas officials await EPA greenhouse gas rules - 6/2/14 - Kansas officials are waiting to see how the federal government plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions only days after the state signed off on a new, \$2.8 billion coal-fired power plant. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/06/02/5061504/kansas-officials-await-epa-greenhouse.html>

Washington Post - Why the EPA's new power plant rules are a diversion from serious climate policy - 6/2/14 - Requiring existing coal-fired power plants to reduced their emissions by 30 percent (technically, 30 percent from

2005 levels) is significant, but it's a tiny fraction of the emission reductions necessary to achieve atmospheric stabilization, and could actually make achieving this ultimate goal more difficult.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2014/06/02/why-the-epas-new-power-plant-rules-are-a-diversion-from-serious-climate-policy/>

Senate.gov - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi Delivers Weekly Republican Address - 5/31/14 - 'If [the Obama Administration] succeeds in death by regulation, we'll all be paying a lot more money for electricity – if we can get it. Our pocketbook will be lighter, but our country will be darker.'

http://www.enzi.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news-releases?ContentRecord_id=b4501a19-662b-46e7-b7cb-b9ff819ccc3d

Omaha World-Herald - Anxiety ahead of new EPA rules on power plants' carbon emissions - 6/2/14 - Electric utilities in Nebraska and Iowa will be watching closely this morning when the Environmental Protection Agency releases groundbreaking new rules aimed at cutting the carbon pollution of existing power plants.

http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/anxiety-ahead-of-new-epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon/article_af95ca90-c70a-5f88-9d97-2cbf643fdf27.html

Associated Press (Jefferson City, Mo.) - States move to blunt Obama carbon reduction plan - 6/2/14 - As President Barack Obama prepares to announce tougher new air quality standards, lawmakers in several states already are trying to blunt the impact on aging coal-fired power plants that feed electricity to millions of consumers.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2014-06-02/states-move-to-blunt-obama-carbon-reduction-plan>

Washington Times - New EPA rules could burn coal state Democrats - 6/1/14 - Democratic candidates and the party's campaign organizations have positioned themselves carefully in anticipation of more stringent emissions standards that will thrill the party's environmentalist base but cause political headaches for Democrats facing tough challenges in states that produce coal or rely heavily on coal to generate electricity.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/1/new-epa-rules-could-burn-coal-state-democrats/>

Al Jazeera - Opinion: Obama's 'war on coal' doesn't exist - 6/1/2014 - Rather than advocating clean energy independence, Republican and Democratic candidates alike are doubling down in defense of Big Coal with a wildly inaccurate "war on coal" rallying call, just in time for the midterm elections. Their bogus claim: Overreaching federal regulations are killing coal jobs.

<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/6/obama-war-on-coalmidtermsappalachiasenatepolitics.html>

USA Today - EPA seeks 30% cut in power plant carbon emissions by 2030 - 6/2/14 - "By leveraging cleaner energy sources and cutting energy waste, this plan will clean the air we breathe while helping slow climate change so we can leave a safe and healthy future for our kids," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, adding it will spur innovation and create jobs.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/06/02/epa-proposes-sharp-cuts-power-plant-emissions/9859913/>

KWCH Ch. 12 Wichita (video) - Obama demands power plants cut carbon - 6/2/14 - President Barack Obama is using his executive authority to take his strongest action yet against climate change -- proposing new EPA regulations. <http://www.kwch.com/news/politics-elections/epa-seeks-cuts-in-power-plant-carbon-emissions/26281348>

TIME - New Carbon Rules the Next Step in Obama's War on Coal - 6/1/14 - The Republican Party sees the carbon rules that the president announced Monday, like his previous rules limiting mercury, smog, and coal ash, as a thinly disguised effort to make coal power uneconomical. <http://time.com/2806697/obama-epa-coal-carbon/>

Washington Post - Environmental policy is partisan. It wasn't always - 6/2/14 - When the Clean Air Act first became law in 1970, the Senate passed it without a single nay vote. Only one representative had voted against the bill. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/06/02/support-for-the-clean-air-act-has-changed-a-lot-since-1970/>

USA Today - EPA finally gets U.S. into climate game: Our View - 6/2/14 - Prudent risk management involves leaving a margin for error when the fate of the planet is at risk. It involves preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. Monday's announcement marks the start of a far saner approach for the United States, one that will resonate globally. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/06/02/epa-carbon-emissions-climate-change-editorials-debates/9780411/>

U.S. News & World Report - What Do You Think of the EPA's Power Plant Rule? - 6/2/14 - The long-awaited rule has been met with mixed reactions: Republicans have seized on it as an attack on the U.S. coal industry, while environmental activists believe the rule does little to curb the effects of climate change. Some industry experts and advocacy groups have already challenged the rule's legality. <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2014/06/02/what-do-you-think-of-the-epas-coal-emission-rule>

Christian Science Monitor - Obama climate change plan 101: What's in new EPA rules? - 6/2/14 - The EPA has unveiled new rules to cut carbon emissions from power plants. It's President Obama's attempt to significantly add to his legacy on climate change. What will the new rules do? A point-by-point look at the essentials. <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/DC-Decoder/2014/0602/Obama-climate-change-plan-101-What-s-in-new-EPA-rules>

The Daily Beast - Obama's New Emissions Rules Will Yank the Climate Change Debate Back Into Reality - 6/2/14 - The new carbon rules may create short-term pain for Democrats, but over time the party will be rewarded for bringing sanity to this debate. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/02/obama-s-new-emissions-rules-will-yank-the-climate-change-debate-back-into-reality.html>

The Wire (blog) - EPA Announces New Plan in a Chamber Full of Incandescent Lightbulbs - 6/2/14 - As Washington commences debate on a new plan to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent, the backdrop for the EPA announcement didn't lend confidence. <http://www.thewire.com/politics/2014/06/epa-announces-new-plan-in-a-chamber-full-of-incandescent-lightbulbs/371997/>

Crosscut (blog) - The EPA, Obama & the military usher in a new climate politics - 6/1/14 - In the new political landscape, no candidate can be soft on climate and claim they're strong on defense. <http://crosscut.com/2014/06/01/environment/120335/climate-barack-obama-politics-global-warming/>

Huffington Post - Column: Will New Climate Regulations Destroy the Economy? (Hint: No.) - 6/2/14 - No. On the contrary, they might just save it by helping stimulate new technologies and industries and by reducing the risks of climate disruption. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-h-gleick/will-new-climate-regulation_b_5432090.html

Fox News - Obama administration to announce controversial emissions cap on power plants - 6/2/14 - The Obama administration is set to announce a rule Monday to limit carbon emissions in thousands of fossil-fuel burning plants across the country, a cornerstone of President Obama's climate-change agenda and his first-term promise to reduce such emissions by 17 percent by 2020. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/06/02/obama-to-announce-rule-to-limit-emissions-from-fossil-burning-plants-part-his/>

Wall Street Journal - EPA Rule to Cost Up to \$8.8 Billion Annually, Sources Say - 6/2/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that its proposed rule controlling carbon emissions from the nation's power plants will cost between \$7.3 billion and \$8.8 billion, according to two people briefed on the proposal. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/epa-rule-to-cost-up-to-8-8-billion-annually-sources-say-1401710600>

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Wall Street Journal - Q&A: What Will EPA's Climate-Change Rule Do? - 6/2/14 - President Obama is tackling climate change through regulation. With a proposed rule announced Monday, the Environmental Protection Agency is using the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from hundreds of power plants across the U.S. though complex proposal running hundreds of pages. <http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-545222/>

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Chicago Tribune - EPA to unveil sweeping rules to cut carbon emissions - 6/2/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency will propose a regulation Monday that will cut carbon-dioxide emissions from existing coal plants by up to 30 percent, compared with 2005 levels, by 2030, according to individuals who have been briefed on the plan and asked for anonymity because it has not been formally announced. It is potentially one of the biggest steps any country has taken to confront climate change. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-epa-emissions-cuts-20140602,0,1567260.story>

NBC News - What 'War on Coal'? The Carbon Fuel Is Doing Fine - 6/2/14 - there's a war on coal, someone may have forgotten to tell the primary target. As the Environmental Protection Agency prepares to unveil new standards on cutting carbon emissions at U.S. power plants, a confluence of factors underscore how coal still remains a vital source of generating electricity. <http://www.nbcnews.com/business/energy/what-war-coal-carbon-fuel-doing-fine-n120076>

Christian Science Monitor - EPA power plant rules: an 'Obamacare' for climate change - 6/2/14 - The EPA will unveil new regulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent by 2030. The EPA power plant rules are the most aggressive of President Obama's Climate Action Plan and have already provoked heated debate over a complex issue. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0602/EPA-power-plant-rules-an-Obamacare-for-climate-change>

Pew Research - EPA to propose power plant pollution cuts, an idea the public has backed - 6/2/14 - As part of the Obama administration strategy to deal with the challenge of climate change, the Environmental Protection Agency plans to issue a new regulation today aimed at cutting emissions from the nation's coal-fueled power plants. The move is likely to meet with political and industry opposition, but in general, the public favors the idea of stricter limits on power plants. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/06/02/most-americans-support-cutting-coal-plant-emissions/>

Associated Press - EPA Seeks to Cut Power Plant Carbon by 30 Percent - 6/2/14 - The Obama administration on Monday will roll out a plan to cut earth-warming pollution from power plants and 30 percent by 2030, setting in motion one of the most significant actions to address global warming in U.S. history. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/epa-seek-cut-power-plant-carbon-23950643>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Despite dire predictions, carbon emissions debate continues - 6/2/14 - The White House has made dire long-term predictions about the impact that climate change will have on Midwestern agriculture, forests, water and wildlife. The assessment is not universally accepted in Congress, but it is central to the debate over proposed new carbon emission limits for coal-fired power plants expected to be released Monday by the Obama administration. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/despise-dire-predictions-carbon-emissions-debate-continues/article_337adec7-c998-5e51-a0b5-213f3a2c991a.html

Reuters - U.S. to seek 30 percent cut in power-plant carbon pollution - 6/1/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans on Monday to propose a 30 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions from the country's existing power plants by 2030, people briefed on the proposal told Reuters. Word of some of the proposal's components came before Monday's unveiling by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. They mark the most sweeping and significant environmental regulations introduced by the Obama administration. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/01/us-usa-climatechange-report-idUSKBN0EC1VY20140601>

New York Times - Trying to Reclaim Leadership on Climate Change - 6/1/14 - On Monday, Mr. Obama is planning to bypass Congress and take one of the biggest steps any American president has ever taken on climate change, proposing new rules to cut emissions at power plants. Yet, by itself, the president's plan will barely nudge the global emissions that scientists say are threatening the welfare of future generations. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/02/us/politics/obama-tries-to-reclaim-leadership-on-climate-change.html>

Bloomberg - Obama Said to Propose Deep Cuts to Power-Plant Emissions - 6/1/14 - President Barack Obama will propose cutting greenhouse-gas emissions from the nation's power plants by an average of 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, according to people briefed on the plans. The proposal, scheduled to be unveiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tomorrow morning, represents one of the boldest steps the U.S. has taken to fight global warming -- and a political gamble. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-01/obama-said-to-propose-30-cut-of-power-plant-greenhouse-gases.html>

USA Today - EPA to seek deep cuts in carbon emissions from power plants - 6/1/14 - The EPA draft rule, a major plank of President Obama's initiative to fight climate change, will require states to develop and implement plans to cut power plant emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. It will give states different reduction targets but will seek a national average — from 2005 levels — of 25% by 2020 and 30% by 2030, say those familiar with the plan. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/06/01/epa-carbon-emissions-power-plants/9846045/>

Wall-Street Journal - EPA Power-Plant Proposal Will Seek 30% Carbon Dioxide Emissions Cut by 2030 - 6/1/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency will propose a draft rule on Monday seeking a 30% reduction in carbon-dioxide emissions by 2030 from existing power plants based on emission levels from 2005, according to two people who have been briefed on the rule, setting in motion the main piece of President Barack Obama's climate-change agenda. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/epa-power-plant-proposal-will-seek-30-carbon-dioxide-emissions-cut-by-2030-sources-1401650325>

Politico - Obama to seek 30 percent cuts in power plants' carbon pollution - 6/2/14 - The Obama administration's long-awaited climate rule for existing power plants will require as much as a 30 percent cut in the industry's greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, according to several sources familiar with the rule. The required cuts would be based on pollution levels in 2005, a peak year for the industry's carbon emissions, the sources said Sunday night. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/06/reports-obama-to-seek-30-percent-cuts-in-power-plants-carbon-pollution-107301.html#ixzz33RjrcI20>

Salon - Obama's power plant rule leaked: EPA seeks 30 percent reduction in emissions - 6/1/14 - The Obama administration is set to announce its draft proposal to cut carbon emissions from existing power plants at 10:30 am ET Monday morning, and according to information obtained by the Wall Street Journal, they're going to pack a powerful punch. http://www.salon.com/2014/06/01/obamas_power_plant_rule_leaked_epa_seeks_drastic_reduction_in_emissions/

Associated Press - Obama Makes Public Health Pitch For Carbon Rules - 5/31/14 - "I refuse to condemn our children to a planet that's beyond fixing," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address released Saturday. As governors, businesses and environmentalists brace for new limits on power plant pollution, President Barack Obama is casting his unprecedented effort to curb greenhouse gases as essential to protect the health and wellbeing of children. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/31/public-health-carbon-rules_n_5423116.html

Associated Press - Obama Climate Change Policy Comes With Perils - 5/31/14 - The new pollution rule the Obama administration announces Monday will be a cornerstone of President Barack Obama's environmental legacy and arguably the most significant U.S. environmental regulation in decades. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/31/obama-climate-change-poli_n_5423676.html

Kansas City Star posted this story.

Reuters - Ahead of power plant push, Obama ties climate change to health hazards - 5/31/14 - President Barack Obama kicked off a campaign to promote new restrictions on U.S. power plant emissions on Saturday by

tying the fight against climate change with efforts to promote better health for children and the elderly.
<http://news.yahoo.com/ahead-power-plant-push-obama-ties-climate-change-101113149.html>

The Guardian (UK) - Obama heralds health benefits of climate plan to cut power plant emissions - 5/31/14 - Barack Obama talked up the health benefits of his climate plan on Saturday, saying cuts to carbon pollution would reduce asthma attacks by 100,000 and heart attacks by 2,100 just in the first year.
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/31/obama-climate-change-epa-power-plant-health>

Washington Post - Obama lends support to EPA's upcoming power plant rule - 5/31/14 - Speaking in his weekly radio address Saturday, President Obama argued that an upcoming rule to curb carbon emissions from existing power plants will improve public health and protect the planet for future generations. Obama did not divulge the details of the proposed regulation, which the Environmental Protection Agency will release Monday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-lends-support-to-epas-upcoming-power-plant-rule/2014/05/31/7a74efbc-e85a-11e3-8f90-73e071f3d637_story.html

CBS News - Obama to impose carbon pollution cap on power plants - 5/31/14 - In his most sweeping effort to date to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change, the Obama administration will unveil a new rule from the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday limiting the amount of carbon pollution from coal power plants.
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/obama-to-impose-carbon-pollution-cap-on-power-plants/>

USA Today - EPA carbon rules could speed U.S. shift from coal - 5/31/14 - The Obama administration's historic proposal to reduce carbon emissions from U.S. power plants, expected Monday, could accelerate the nation's shift from coal to natural gas and renewable energy. "This is a colossal proposal that should achieve the biggest carbon pollution reductions ever undertaken by the United States," says Daniel J. Weiss of the Center for American Progress. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/05/31/epa-carbon-rules-accelerate-shift-from-coal/9713993/>

Center for American Progress - Opinion: Fundamental Facts of the EPA's Climate Protection Proposal - 5/30/14 - The Supreme Court ruled that it is the president's responsibility to limit carbon pollution that will otherwise feed smog, damage lungs, exacerbate extreme weather, and lead to other deadly, costly consequences of climate change. We can have a debate about the most efficient way to reduce climate pollution, but let's base it on facts and not fallacies. <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2014/05/30/90678/fundamental-facts-of-the-epas-climate-protection-proposal/>

Media Matters - Myths and Facts About EPA's Carbon Pollution Standards - 5/31/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's forthcoming regulations on greenhouse gas emissions will provide legally required protection for the health and welfare of Americans at a cheap cost, while allowing states flexibility -- contrary to media fearmongering about the landmark standards. <http://mediamatters.org/research/2014/05/30/myths-and-facts-about-epas-carbon-pollution-sta/199516>

Slate (blog) - Obama Will Use Executive Authority to Mandate "Strongest Action Ever" on Climate Change - 5/30/14 - President Obama will announce an EPA regulation on Monday that will require a 20 percent reduction in carbon emissions by coal-fired power plants, a move that circumvents Congressional intransigence on climate change and will likely lead to the institution of cap-and-trade carbon limits at the state level.

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slate/2014/05/29/obama_carbon_plan_coal_plants_will_be_targeted_in_epa_rule.html

The Hill (blog) - Fighting climate change is good policy and good politics - 5/30/14 - When President Obama announces the country's first-ever standards to curb carbon pollution from our power plants next Monday, June 2, he will be betting on the adage that good policy makes for good politics. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/207598-fighting-climate-change-is-good-policy-and-good>

Huffington Post - U.S. Bishops Call For Reduction On Carbon Pollution - 5/30/14 - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) called on the Environmental Protection Agency to combat climate change in a May 29 letter. It specifically focused on the issue of carbon pollution, particularly from power plants. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/30/us-bishops-carbon-pollution_n_5420371.html

National Resources Defense Council - New Carbon Pollution Standards Can Create 274,000 Jobs, Save \$37 Billion on Energy Bills - 5/31/14 - Common-sense carbon pollution standards for power plants—like the proposed standards that President Obama will unveil next week--can protect our pocketbooks as well as our health, according to a new study. By fueling a surge in energy efficiency, standards that would reduce carbon pollution 25 percent by 2020 could create 274,000 new jobs and save Americans more than \$37 billion on energy bills. http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/plehner/new_carbon_pollution_standards.html

Kansas City Star - Kansas officials await EPA greenhouse gas rules - 6/2/14 - Kansas officials are waiting to see how the federal government plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions only days after the state signed off on a new, \$2.8 billion coal-fired power plant. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/06/02/5061504/kansas-officials-await-epa-greenhouse.html>

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Senate.gov - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi Delivers Weekly Republican Address - 5/31/14 - 'If [the Obama Administration] succeeds in death by regulation, we'll all be paying a lot more money for electricity – if we can get it. Our pocketbook will be lighter, but our country will be darker.' http://www.enzi.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news-releases?ContentRecord_id=b4501a19-662b-46e7-b7cb-b9ff819ccc3d

National Public Radio (NPR) - EPA To Propose Rules To Deeply Cut Power Plant Emissions - 6/21/14 - On Monday, the Environmental Protection Agency will propose rules to regulate the amount of carbon pollution existing facilities can release. The EPA reportedly is seeking a 30 percent cut.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/06/02/318098954/epa-to-propose-rules-to-deeply-cut-power-plant-emissions>

U.S. News & World Report - EPA: Global Warming Here and Now - 6/2/14 - Just days from the release of long-awaited new emissions rules for power plants, the Obama administration has been ramping up its efforts to promote its global-warming agenda, highlighting the economic benefits of boosting clean energy and the consequences – both those we’re experiencing now and others we’ll feel in the future – of continued climate change.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2014/06/02/epa-global-warming-here-and-now>

Washington Times - New EPA rules could burn coal state Democrats - 6/1/14 - Democratic candidates and the party’s campaign organizations have positioned themselves carefully in anticipation of more stringent emissions standards that will thrill the party’s environmentalist base but cause political headaches for Democrats facing tough challenges in states that produce coal or rely heavily on coal to generate electricity.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/1/new-epa-rules-could-burn-coal-state-democrats/>

Al Jazeera - Opinion: Obama's 'war on coal' doesn't exist - 6/1/2014 - Rather than advocating clean energy independence, Republican and Democratic candidates alike are doubling down in defense of Big Coal with a wildly inaccurate “war on coal” rallying call, just in time for the midterm elections. Their bogus claim: Overreaching federal regulations are killing coal jobs. <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/6/obama-war-on-coalmidtermsappalachiasenatepolitics.html>

Omaha World-Herald - Anxiety ahead of new EPA rules on power plants' carbon emissions - 6/2/14 - Electric utilities in Nebraska and Iowa will be watching closely this morning when the Environmental Protection Agency releases groundbreaking new rules aimed at cutting the carbon pollution of existing power plants.

http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/anxiety-ahead-of-new-epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon/article_af95ca90-c70a-5f88-9d97-2cbf643fdf27.html

eMissourian (Columbia, Mo.) - Citizens, Ameren Argue Over Coal Ash Landfill's Distance to Water Table - 5/31/14 - An appeal hearing this week pitted local citizens against Ameren Missouri and Franklin County over the distance between a proposed coal ash landfill and the natural water table.

http://www.emissourian.com/local_news/county/article_4a98f7f8-e831-11e3-9eb9-0019bb2963f4.html

Lake Expo - Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to receive \$255,551 for Little Sac River restoration project - 5/31/14 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has announced a \$255,551 grant to the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks for restoration and improvements to the Little Sac River. The funding is provided by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.
http://lakeexpo.com/news/lake_news/article_bbfeba9c-e938-11e3-9583-001a4bcf887a.html

Fulton Sun (Mo.) - Dept. of Natural Resources rep: Fulton landfill grass cover significantly improved - 6/1/14 - A Missouri Department of Natural Resources environmental specialist visited Fulton's landfill site Friday and said vegetative cover has significantly improved. <http://www.fultonsun.com/news/2014/jun/01/dept-natural-resources-rep-fulton-landfill-grass-c/>

USA Today - EPA seeks 30% cut in power plant carbon emissions by 2030 - 6/2/14 - "By leveraging cleaner energy sources and cutting energy waste, this plan will clean the air we breathe while helping slow climate change so we can leave a safe and healthy future for our kids," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, adding it will spur innovation and create jobs. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/06/02/epa-proposes-sharp-cuts-power-plant-emissions/9859913/>

KWCH Ch. 12 Wichita (video) - Obama demands power plants cut carbon - 6/2/14 - President Barack Obama is using his executive authority to take his strongest action yet against climate change -- proposing new EPA regulations. <http://www.kwch.com/news/politics-elections/epa-seeks-cuts-in-power-plant-carbon-emissions/26281348>

TIME - New Carbon Rules the Next Step in Obama's War on Coal - 6/1/14 - The Republican Party sees the carbon rules that the president announced Monday, like his previous rules limiting mercury, smog, and coal ash, as a thinly disguised effort to make coal power uneconomical. <http://time.com/2806697/obama-epa-coal-carbon/>

IowaWatch.org - Bioengineers Hope Turning Garbage Into Gas Opens A Green Frontier in Iowa, Midwest - 5/31/14 - The thought of turning your dinner table leftovers, old cardboard boxes and even dirty diapers into fuel for your car might sound ambitious, or even absurd. But scientists, bioengineers and profit-minded businesspeople say they can do it. <http://iowawatch.org/2014/05/31/bioengineers-hope-turning-garbage-into-gas-opens-a-green-frontier-in-iowa-midwest/>

Washington Post - Environmental policy is partisan. It wasn't always - 6/2/14 - When the Clean Air Act first became law in 1970, the Senate passed it without a single nay vote. Only one representative had voted against the bill. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/06/02/support-for-the-clean-air-act-has-changed-a-lot-since-1970/>

USA Today - EPA finally gets U.S. into climate game: Our View - 6/2/14 - Prudent risk management involves leaving a margin for error when the fate of the planet is at risk. It involves preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. Monday's announcement marks the start of a far saner approach for the United States, one that will resonate globally. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/06/02/epa-carbon-emissions-climate-change-editorials-debates/9780411/>

U.S. News & World Report - What Do You Think of the EPA's Power Plant Rule? - 6/2/14 - The long-awaited rule has been met with mixed reactions: Republicans have seized on it as an attack on the U.S. coal industry, while environmental activists believe the rule does little to curb the effects of climate change. Some industry experts and advocacy groups have already challenged the rule's legality.

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2014/06/02/what-do-you-think-of-the-epas-coal-emission-rule>

New York Times - Key Details of E.P.A. Carbon Emissions Proposal - 6/2/14 - A rule proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency would cut carbon pollution from power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 – the equivalent, according to the agency, of taking two-thirds of all cars and trucks in America off the road.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/us/politics/key-details-of-epa-carbon-emissions-proposal.html>

Christian Science Monitor - Obama climate change plan 101: What's in new EPA rules? - 6/2/14 - The EPA has unveiled new rules to cut carbon emissions from power plants. It's President Obama's attempt to significantly add to his legacy on climate change. What will the new rules do? A point-by-point look at the essentials.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/DC-Decoder/2014/0602/Obama-climate-change-plan-101-What-s-in-new-EPA-rules>

The Daily Beast - Obama's New Emissions Rules Will Yank the Climate Change Debate Back Into Reality - 6/2/14 - The new carbon rules may create short-term pain for Democrats, but over time the party will be rewarded for bringing sanity to this debate. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/02/obama-s-new-emissions-rules-will-yank-the-climate-change-debate-back-into-reality.html>

The Wire (blog) - EPA Announces New Plan in a Chamber Full of Incandescent Lightbulbs - 6/2/14 - As Washington commences debate on a new plan to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent, the backdrop for the EPA announcement didn't lend confidence. <http://www.thewire.com/politics/2014/06/epa-announces-new-plan-in-a-chamber-full-of-incandescent-lightbulbs/371997/>

Crosscut (blog) - The EPA, Obama & the military usher in a new climate politics - 6/1/14 - In the new political landscape, no candidate can be soft on climate and claim they're strong on defense.

<http://crosscut.com/2014/06/01/environment/120335/climate-barack-obama-politics-global-warming/>

Huffington Post - Column: Will New Climate Regulations Destroy the Economy? (Hint: No.) - 6/2/14 - No. On the contrary, they might just save it by helping stimulate new technologies and industries and by reducing the risks of climate disruption. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-h-gleick/will-new-climate-regulati_b_5432090.html

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

6/3/14 – Asthma Awareness Month Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

6/4/14 – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

6/5/14 – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

6/12/14 – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/11/14 – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

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RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

6/4/14 - Representatives from Policy Management and Resources Conservation and Pollution Prevention will be attending an open house at Lincoln University's Busby Certified Organic Farm, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Gregory Davis, 7208

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

***6/3/14** – Unified Government Emergency Services Planning Meeting – Kansas City, Ks. – Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

***6/11/14** – Site tour and Open House for the Former Nebraska Ordnance Plant – Mead, Neb. – Contact: Sandeep Mehta, 7763

WWPD

6/2-6/14 – Public Water Supply System Program Evaluation at Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

6/3/14 – Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Capacity Development Program Stakeholder Group Coordination Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Robert Dunlevy, 7798

6/6/14 – Waters of the U.S. Interview at KMOS Studio at University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Mo. Contacts: Karen Flourney, 7782, David Bryan, 7433

6/10/14 – Collaborative Workshop on Training Needs by the Missouri Rural Water Association, Ashland, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

6/19-20/14 – Nebraska Game and Parks Field Tour, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

6/25/14 – Providing Technical Training on the Revised Total Coliform Rule for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

Des Moines Register

Branstad spokesman: Carbon rule hurts Iowa consumers, jobs

By Donnelle Eller

1:20 p.m. CDT June 2, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2014/06/02/environmentalists-businesses-disagree-epa-standard-job-creation/9866209/>

What does the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants mean for Iowa?

Environmentalists say the standard should mean more green jobs from wind, solar and other renewable energy industries. And some business groups say it will cost jobs and slow the economy.

Gov. Terry Branstad is concerned EPA's "latest unilateral, ideological action" will "hurt Iowa consumers and cost Iowans jobs," said Jimmy Centers, a Branstad spokesman.

"First, the EPA attacked the Iowa farmer by slashing the Renewable Fuels Standard," a proposal that would reduce the amount of ethanol and biodiesel that must be blended in the nation's fuel supply, Centers said. "Now the EPA is set to mandate more government red tape that will lead to higher prices for Iowa consumers and make it more difficult to attract manufacturing jobs to our state."

An Iowa utility group also says the proposal will hurt consumers. "The proposed rules released by the EPA will likely lead to increases in our member-owners monthly electric bills -- the question is how much?" said Marion Denger, president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Electric cooperatives provide service to about 650,000 Iowans.

Among the electric cooperatives' main concerns: The costs to operate coal-fueled generation could be significantly increased, the association said. In addition, the standard could potentially force "the premature shutdown of certain electric generating facilities."

Denger said the association said supports "responsible environmental policies that balance the needs of the environment without significantly impacting power reliability or electric bills."

Here's what environmentalists and business groups are saying about jobs and the economy:

Cost jobs?

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Seven states in the Midwest, including Iowa, would see an average annual \$3.2 billion loss in economic activity through 2030, and a 27,400 loss in jobs, the group said based on a study that estimated the impact of a 42 percent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030.

The EPA proposal today calls for cutting emissions 30 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels.

Nationally, the group said the proposed standard would cost America's economy \$51 billion and lead to 224,000

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based in Fairfield, Ia., and a member of Environmental Entrepreneurs. The group is made up of entrepreneurs, investors and professionals that promote sound environmental policies.

"If we want to remain a national leader and keep creating good, clean energy jobs in our state, we need our state officials to implement a strong plan to implement these new EPA standards. That's what will keep Iowa's solar, wind and energy efficiency businesses growing and adding jobs."

The Natural Resources Defense Council: Iowa could see 2,500 more jobs with a standard focused on increased energy efficiency, according to a study the group released last week.

The group looked at a nearly 25 percent reduction in carbon emissions from power plants by 2020 from 2012 levels.

The Washington, D.C., group said residential consumers would pay \$103 million less annually -- about \$76 per household -- and businesses would pay \$134 million less annually.

Wall Street Journal

EPA Rule to Cost Up to \$8.8 Billion Annually, Sources Say

EPA Sees Benefits of Proposed Rule to Control Carbon Emissions From Power Plants of \$55 Billion to \$93 Billion

By AMY HARDER CONNECT

Updated June 2, 2014 8:16 a.m. ET

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that its proposed rule controlling carbon emissions from the nation's power plants will cost between \$7.3 billion and \$8.8 billion, according to two people briefed on the proposal.

EPA estimates that the benefits of the rule would be between \$55 billion and \$93 billion a year in part because the rule will also cut traditional air pollution such as sulfur dioxide 25%, saving money in health care and related costs. In addition, EPA estimates the draft rule would avoid up to 6,600 premature deaths a year and up to 150,000 asthma attacks, according to these people.

Critics of EPA are already contesting the rule's costs and benefits. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a report last week predicting it would cost the economy \$50 billion and 224,200 jobs each year. The report prompted a top EPA spokesman to respond with a blog post the same day.

"The U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a report that makes unfounded assumptions about the EPA's upcoming proposal for commonsense standards to cut the harmful carbon pollution from power plants," wrote Tom Reynolds, EPA associate administrator for external affairs and environmental education.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday that the rule, which EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is announcing Monday morning, will propose mandating power plants cut U.S. carbon-dioxide emissions 30% by 2030 from levels of 25 years earlier, according to people briefed on the rule, an ambitious target that marks the first-ever attempt at limiting such pollution.

The rule, the cornerstone of President Barack Obama's climate agenda, would affect hundreds of fossil-fuel power plants, hitting the nation's roughly 600 coal-fired plants the hardest. The carbon framework seeks to strike a balance between what environmentalists want—an ambitious overall target—with what the utility industry wants—flexibility, a long compliance timeline and an earlier base-year calculation from which to meet the goal. Carbon emissions have dropped since 2005, making the overall reduction smaller when compared with recent years.

Wall Street Journal

Q&A: What Will EPA's Climate-Change Rule Do?

By Amy Harder

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-545222/>

President Obama is tackling climate change through regulation. With a proposed rule announced Monday, the Environmental Protection Agency is using the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from hundreds of power plants across the U.S. though complex proposal running hundreds of pages. <http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-545222/>

Will my electricity prices go up?

The answer to that question depends on who you ask and who you get to model the rule's economic impact. The administration says no, but the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says yes. The most accurate answer to this question won't be clear until the contours of the rule itself become clearer, especially the plans states will submit to EPA—and that's not happening until at least 2016.

What else do I need to know about the rule?

The three most important parts of the rule are 1) the percent reduction number, which varies by state; 2) the year by which those reductions are calculated against; and 3) how many years companies have to comply.

We're talking about global climate change here. Will this rule actually solve the problem?

No. These rules regulate carbon dioxide emissions from the U.S. utility sector only, which are about 6.3% of global carbon emissions.

So why is the government doing this?

There are two answers to this. Here's the one administration officials will give you: The Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that carbon dioxide is a pollutant under the Clean Air Act and EPA has the authority to regulate it when or if it finds that carbon endangers public health and welfare. In 2009 after Mr. Obama took office, that's just what EPA did with its scientific endangerment finding. The 2007 ruling paired with EPA's 2009 finding triggered a suite of climate-change rules, and this is the cornerstone of that suite. Here's the second reason why Mr. Obama is doing it: He wants to make climate change part of his legacy and to lead on international climate negotiations.

Will other countries adopt a similar plan? If China doesn't follow the U.S.'s lead, then what's the point?

By taking this regulatory step to address climate change domestically, the Obama administration hopes it will show leadership in the context of international negotiations so China and India, which are fast becoming the world's biggest carbon emitters, will take corresponding steps of their own to address the issue.

When will EPA do this?

Based upon a presidential memo issued last June, EPA is on schedule to finalize the rule a year from now and states must submit their plans by June 30, 2016.

Will EPA actually stick to this schedule?

The presidential memo Mr. Obama issued last summer gives EPA as much momentum as an agency could get from the White House, but legal, political and policy setbacks may push this back.

Who will this rule regulate?

EPA will require states to submit plans to comply with the rule, and utility companies must comply with those state plans. This rule will affect coal-fired power plants—of which there are about 600 across the U.S.—the most because it emits more carbon dioxide than natural gas and oil. Coal is also the cheapest and most plentiful, providing about 40% of the nation's electricity.

Why didn't EPA do this in 2009?

Mr. Obama's plan A on climate change was for Congress to pass legislation, but that didn't happen. EPA's carbon rules were the unpopular plan B that Mr. Obama threatened Congress with to prod lawmakers to pass a bill. In 2010, congressional efforts collapsed and the plan B everyone hated became the only plan.

Hasn't EPA already have dozens or hundreds of environmental rules?

Yes. EPA's regulatory reach is vast, and it's gotten bigger under Mr. Obama. Over the last few years, EPA has invoked its authority under the Clean Air Act to issue numerous new standards affecting the power sector in particular, including on mercury emissions and pollution that blows across state lines. But this rule is the most significant rule EPA will issue under Mr. Obama's watch because it is regulating a ubiquitous pollutant—carbon dioxide—on a sector heavily dependent upon the fossil fuels that burn carbon, which is linked to climate change.

Wall-Street Journal

EPA Power-Plant Proposal Will Seek 30% Carbon Dioxide Emissions Cut by 2030

Plan Sets in Motion Main Piece of President Obama's Climate-Change Agenda

By Amy Harder

Updated June 1, 2014 3:58 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency will propose a draft rule on Monday seeking a 30% reduction in carbon-dioxide emissions by 2030 from existing power plants based on emission levels from 2005, according to two people who have been briefed on the rule, setting in motion the main piece of President Barack Obama's climate-change agenda.

The rule, scheduled to be completed one year from now, will give flexibility to the states, which must implement the rules and submit compliance plans to EPA by June 2016. States can decide how to meet the reductions, including joining or creating new cap-and-trade programs, deploying more renewable energy or ramping up energy-efficiency technologies.

Each state will have different percent reduction standards, and the national average will be 25% by 2020 and 30% by 2030, these people said.

The proposed rule will regulate carbon emissions from hundreds of fossil-fuel power plants across the U.S., including about 600 coal plants, which will be hit hardest by the standard.

"EPA will release its proposed carbon pollution reduction rule on Monday," EPA spokesman Tom Reynolds said. "Until then the agency will not comment on any information that may or may not be in the proposal."